



## Israeli joy over U.S.-PLO contacts may be shortlived

By Howard Goller  
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Israel's joy over the suspension of U.S.-PLO contacts may soon turn to anxiety as Washington demands it make the next move towards peace.

President George Bush broke off the dialogue after 18 months Wednesday, then publicly challenged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to show whether his new hardline government was serious about peace.

"I have sent a letter to Prime Minister Shamir. I have very specifically asked questions that relate to seriousness about the peace process," Bush told reporters.

Palestinian moderates voiced anger and experts predicted a rise in militancy on both sides as Israeli officials braced for an onslaught of new U.S. pressure.

Israeli commentators said the tough U.S. action prompted by a guerrilla raid near the Tel Aviv coast last month cleared the way

for Washington to make demands no less harsh of Israel, despite their close alliance.

"After using an iron fist against the PLO, the Americans will feel themselves free — perhaps even forced — to use an iron fist against Israel," the country's biggest daily *Yedioth Achronot* wrote in an editorial.

Secretary of State James Baker

### NEWS ANALYSIS

is pressing Israel to accept U.S. proposals for first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and Bush wants a halt to further Jewish settlement in occupied Arab lands.

Shamir pays lip service to his 13-month-old proposal to let Palestinians in the occupied territories elect negotiators to talk on interim self-rule. But he apparently feels no urgency to respond to U.S. proposals.

"Mr. Shamir is not a man to be

pressed and the Americans know it," his chief of staff Yossi Ahimeir told Reuters.

The Israeli premier is even less likely to respond since his Likud Party, emerging victorious from a power struggle with the more dovish Labour Party, formed the most right-wing government in Israeli history 10 days ago.

The hardline coalition is devoted to cracking down on the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising and increasing settlement of Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Now Israeli leaders are working to shift the focus from the uprising to the larger conflict with Arab states, trying to calm talk of another Middle East war and making modest gestures to Palestinians in the territories.

They have reopened the first of the universities and colleges closed by the army because of unrest and agreed to receive a United Nations envoy investigating widely condemned tactics to quash the revolt.

Officials believe Bush himself may be behind demands for aid cuts by Senator Robert Dole, Republican leader in the Senate, where the lobby for Israel has clout in U.S. policy-making.



A group of disabled Afghan guerrillas wait for artificial limbs outside a hospital in Peshawar. Treatment is being furnished by international aid committees.

## Aid groups pulling out of Afghanistan

PESHAWAR (AP) — Afghan fundamentalists who have turned their Islamic fervour on foreign relief agencies have forced at least one humanitarian aid group to close down a large-scale reconstruction programme in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

Attacks on Western aid groups during the past several months are also threatening an ambitious \$1.2-billion U.N. programme to reconstruct war-devastated Afghanistan, relief workers said Thursday.

"Maybe they don't want us here any more," said Salima Forman, a project officer of Achar, an organisation representing more than 50 aid groups, most of which are involved in rebuilding Afghanistan.

The Australian-based shelter Now International decided to shut down 27 reconstruction projects inside Afghanistan after being attacked several times by Muslim fundamentalists shouting anti-West slogans.

"We are on the verge of pulling out all together," said Mike Heil, Shelter Now projects director.

However, Shelter Now will continue small-scale aid work in refugee camps around Peshawar until its Australian headquarters decides its fate.

Last week, two Afghan refugees opened fire on Shelter Now's director, Thor Armstrong, pumping 12 bullets into his vehicle. He received minor injuries. His young son, who was accompanying him home from a shopping trip in Peshawar, was unharmed.

Armstrong, who is American, left with his family Wednesday for the United States, where he will run the organisation's U.S. interests.

"It would have to change drastically inside Afghanistan for us to start up again," Heil said.

After Soviet troops ended nine years of direct intervention in Afghanistan in 1989, the United Nations launched an ambitious plan to rebuild the country.

The reconstruction programme was to pave the way for an estimated 5 million Afghan war refugees living in Iran and Pakistan to return to their homeland.

But few have returned and Muslim insurgents, who have waged their war against Kabul's Soviet-style government from Pakistan, have degenerated into feuding warlords.

Radical fundamentalists among the guerrilla resistance have turned their fury once reserved for the Soviet Union on Western

"They will have only Afghan-manned field offices inside the camp and nearby," he said.

"It started with women's programmes but that's just the peg they were using to go after Western aid groups," Kuitert said.

Diplomatic sources say fundamentalists within the guerrilla leadership have launched an anti-West campaign to counter what they see as a U.S.-orchestrated attempt to put moderate resistance leaders into power.

Sadriddin Aga Khan, the U.N. coordinator behind the reconstruction project, has launched a fresh fundraising drive, but aid workers in Peshawar warn that there may be no aid groups left to do the United Nations' work.

Forman said the next six months will decide the future of international assistance to refugees living in Iran and Pakistan to return to their homeland.

"People are wondering: 'Do they even want us here?'" she said.

After Soviet soldiers withdrew, most aid organisations expected to be shifting their headquarters to Kabul anticipating an early end to Kabul's Communist-style government.

## U.S. warns

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, reacting to hostile Arab statements following its decision to break off contacts with the PLO, has warned Americans abroad and especially in the Middle East to take extra security precautions.

State Department spokesman Richard Boncher, in a statement to be sent to U.S. embassies and missions worldwide, said Americans needed to be aware of rising tensions in the Middle East.

"The Department of State recommends that American citizens travelling abroad, and particularly in the Middle East, exercise extra caution," he said.

President George Bush Wednesday announced his decision to suspend diplomatic contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation until it condemned two attempted seaborne guerrilla raids on Israel and disclaimed the perpetrators.

The PLO's representative in Washington, Hasan Abdul Rahman, said Thursday the PLO was still investigating the raids and could not say whether the orga-

## Americans in Mideast

nisation would issue a condemnation.

Abdul Rahman said the U.S. decision was surprising since Bush had seemed to have accepted the PLO's statement that it did not condone the attacks and was investigating them.

He said he believed the U.S. government buckled under pressure from Israel and the main pro-Israel lobby in Washington, the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), as well as pro-Israel congressmen.

"I believe that the real reason is not what President Bush declared, but the real reason is pressure of AIPAC and members of Congress who are here as apologists for Israel and not to promote the peace process," Abdul Rahman said.

The State Department issued a similar warning for Americans abroad on May 31, citing three specific threats to Americans in the aftermath of the murder of seven Arabs by a deranged Israeli gunman on May 20.

## Mengistu admits Ethiopia on verge of collapse

NAIROBI (R) — With rebel groups closing in, embattled Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam has admitted his country is one the verge of collapse.

Urging the people in an impassioned speech to parliament to rally and save the nation, Mengistu for the first time Thursday confirmed rebel reports of fierce fighting north of the capital Addis Ababa and the Red Sea province of Eritrea.

"Citizens must realise... that their motherland is on the verge of collapse in the face of various conspiracies," Addis Ababa Radio quoted him as saying.

Mengistu said the present fighting would decide whether Ethiopia survived as a united sovereign state.

Rebels linked to the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) say they have killed nearly 22,000 government troops in the past three weeks, while Eritrean independence guerrillas have virtually cut off Mengistu's Second Army of 120,000 men.

Military analysts in Addis Ababa say the army is isolated outside the Eritrean capital Asmara and constantly harassed by guerrillas. Its only link to the capital is by air.

A senior Western diplomat told a Reuter correspondent who visited Addis Ababa last week that the army was "encircled and must be thoroughly demoralised and defeated. Meanwhile, the rebels are gradually tightening the noose."

The Eritrean rebels, who in February captured the Red Sea port of Massawa, are now reported closing in on Asmara airport.

"If that goes, then it is as good as over," said the diplomat, adding that for the first time in 29 years of warfare the rebels would control the entire province.

In his speech, Mengistu said the government setbacks followed an agreement between the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the TPLF to launch a joint offensive to divide and disintegrate the country.

Beirut airport tries to shed 'terrorist haven' tag

BEIRUT (AP) — The immigration officer at Beirut International Airport held a passport up to the flickering candle on his desk, squinting to check the photograph of the traveller standing in the darkened terminal hall.

The airport's only functioning generator had broken down, as it often does.

Airport personnel worked by candlelight, checking in passengers with pens instead of computer terminals and inspecting bags by hand because the electronic scanning devices were out.

Flights landed and took off without radio contact from the tower because of the power outage, until someone had the bright idea of hooking up the tower to a small generator in the terminal restaurant.

Beirut airport, the busiest in the Middle East before Lebanon's civil war erupted in 1975, still manages to function despite power cuts, shellfire, bombs and a chronic lack of electronic equipment.

The airport's radar was destroyed in air raids during Israel's 1982 invasion. Since then aircraft have landed with the aid of a radio beacon at the American University of Beirut.

Ghassan Abu Ghazali, a pilot for Beirut-based Middle East Airways (MEA), noted: "Not having a functioning radar isn't that big a problem. You should see some of the airports of Africa. Beirut's better than some of them. It's serviceable."

Shelling has caused considerable damage and the airport was closed down for six months last year because of fighting.

That cost MEA around \$41 million. It has survived the 15 years of warfare through a combination of astute management and dogged refusal to die.

Planes that land at night have to do so with the beachside runway lit by car headlights. The cables for the runway lights were stolen years ago.

Abdul Menhem Shehadeh, director-general of civil aviation, has the unenviable job of restoring the airport in mainly Muslim west Beirut to meet international safety and technical requirements.

He said foreign airlines that once used Beirut have been approached to return. But so far none have made any commitment because of the uncertainty surrounding Lebanon's future.

MEA Executive Vice President

Khaled Musfi acknowledged that Beirut is no longer the Middle East's aviation hub and is unlikely to be so again.

Up to 2,500 travellers use the airport daily with an average of 22 flights landing or taking off. Before the war, there were more than 100 flights a day and around 50,000 passengers.

Shehadeh said he has asked the Lebanese government for 18 billion pounds (\$28.8 million) to refurbish Beirut airport. Given the fractious state of Lebanon's economy, he's unlikely to get it.

But even if he did, it will take more than sprucing up the dilapidated, war-battered airport to wipe out its notoriety as a hijackers' paradise.

Five Westerners were kidnapped on the highway leading to the airport between May 22, 1985, and Jan. 17, 1987. Dozens of MEA employees, most of them Christians, have been killed or kidnapped.

Washington branded the airport a "terrorist haven" and banned MEA and its sister cargo line, Trans-Mediterranean Airlines (TMA), from U.S. airspace and airports after a TWA jetliner was hijacked in June 1985 and a navy diver killed at the airport.

The hijackings and abductions have ceased since Syria deployed 7,500 troops in West Beirut in February 1987 to crack down on unruly militias.

But a few months after the Syrians moved in, a bomb hidden in a briefcase carried by a woman exploded in the crowded terminal, killing seven people and wounding 73.

Since then, the Syrians have tightened security in and around the airport, and Shehadeh claimed: "The airport is now deemed safe."

Departing travellers have to go through nine security checks by Syrian soldiers and Lebanese police before boarding outgoing flights.

## Peres, Rabin trade insults as leadership battle flares

TEL AVIV (AP) — The leadership battle in the left-of-centre Labour Party turned ugly Friday when rabbis Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin traded personal insults and blamed each other for leading the party into the political wilderness.

Rabin, who wants to oust Peres as party leader, called his rival "confused" and "unbalanced". Peres charged: "The one who made big mistakes is Rabin."

Peres, 66, and Rabin, 63, have been rivals for most of their political careers. They grew up in politics as proteges of Israel's founding founders, with Peres following David Ben Gurion and Rabin taking Golda Meir as his mentor.

The latest dispute flared after Peres, with Rabin's backing, toppled Labour's coalition with the right-wing Likud Bloc, but then failed in April to form a new ruling coalition.

Peres' failure paved the way for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to set up a right-wing government on June 11. Rabin, defence minister in the last cabinet, announced his bid for leadership the next day.

Peres also belittled Rabin's belief that the Likud could be produced toward peace negotiations with Palestinians in Cairo. "He (Rabin) thought he could lead Shamir to Cairo. Instead, Shamir led him into a dead end street," Peres charged.

The surveys were conducted among 1,100 Jewish adults and have a margin of error of 2 per cent.

Appearing on the Thursday night news, Peres responded to Rabin's charges that he as party leader was solely responsible for the party's present troubles.

"Yitzhak Rabin went along with me on everything. Step after step... Was he being led? Was he led by a chain? Couldn't he express his opinion?" Peres said. "Rabin bears greater responsibility than I do," he said.

Rabin also suggested that Peres as finance minister in the Likud-Labour coalition gave special grants of government funds to religious parties into a coalition with Labour.

"Look at the increase in special funds between 1988 and 1990. This points to the method with which they tried to achieve this," Rabin charged.

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

##### NIGHT DUTY

##### AMMAN:

Dr. Tawfiq Qab'in ..... 623029

Dr. Fayed Hadqa ..... 792222

Dr. Othman Odman ..... 623074

Dr. Zein Zaghloul ..... 623591

Fins pharmacy ..... 771912

Ferdous pharmacy ..... 627055

Al Naseem pharmacy ..... 623672

Al Satain pharmacy ..... 626732

Yacob pharmacy ..... 544945

Sunseesi pharmacy ..... 627660

Min/max. temp.

Amman ..... 19 / 36

Aqaba ..... 24 / 39

Desert ..... 21 / 38

Jordan Valley ..... 23 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 19 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent

#### EMERGENCIES

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## Negotiations under way on Aqaba railway ownership

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Negotiations are under way among the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Transport and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) for the transfer of ownership of the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) to the JPMC, according to officials. The railway corporation, which is exclusively used to transport phosphate and other related minerals from JPMC mines in the south to Aqaba for export, is a wholly-government-owned entity. It has been steadily losing and the government now feels that the JPMC should bear the burden, according to economists.

"The entire operations of the corporation are devoted to the Phosphate Mines Company, and the government apparently feels that the company should absorb the losses," an economist told the Jordan Times.

The government is also a majority shareholder in the Phosphate Mines Company, "which is now in a better position in view of increased exports of its products," added the economist, who spoke to

the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. No figures were immediately available on the operational losses of the corporation.

The focus of the ongoing negotiations is the value of the "rolling stock" of the railway corporation — engines, carriages and loading equipment etc., JPMC Director-General Wasef Azar told the Jordan Times Friday. He declined to give any specific details of the talks, conducted by representatives of the ministries of the finance and transport and the board of directors of the JPMC.

"The government has offered to transfer the ownership of the 'rolling stock' of the corporation to the JPMC," Azar said. "The talks are continuing, and it is premature to give any details." Other sources said a decision on the transfer of ownership of the "mobile assets" of the corporation — estimated at between JD 14 million and JD 15 million — was expected soon. The deal does not include the railway tracks and some of the fixed facilities of the corporation since they are located on government-owned land.

The Aqaba Railway Corporation was created in 1975 as

part of the Hijaz Railway Corporation and was branched out as a separate entity in 1979. The corporation, which has a rail network of 290 kilometres linking JPMC mines at Al Hasa, Shadiyah and Wadi Al Abiad, now owns 29 locomotive engines and 400 wagons of capacity ranging between 40 and 45 tonnes.

According to informed sources, the negotiations also involve questions over whether the JPMC would be responsible for the corporation's liabilities — mostly loans obtained for expansion purposes, including the building of a \$5 million locomotive workshop at Aqaba, according to the sources.

The government is proposing that it remain responsible for other liabilities related to the rail network itself, while the loans linked to the facilities of the corporation that will be transferred to the JPMC be handled by the company.

If the deal goes through, the JPMC may set up a different department to run the corporation, which has about 700 permanent employees and about 300 temporary workers on daily wage basis, the sources said.

## Jordan to contribute to Arab document on care for children

AMMAN (Petra) — Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) is taking part in a pan-Arab meeting opening in Tunis Saturday to prepare an Arab document on children care which will be submitted to Arab heads of state for approval prior to its presentation to the international summit on children due to be held in New York in September.

NHF Director-General Inaam Al Mufti, who is taking part in the Tunis meeting, said that the Arab delegates have already laid down the broadlines of such document at a meeting held in Cairo last month under the auspices of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The projected Arab document, she said, will reflect the Arab Nations determination to achieve peace which "is indispensable to open the way for the children of Palestine, Lebanon, the Golan Heights and Africa to grow and develop."

"The document outlines the current situation in the Arab region and focuses attention on the adverse effects of the Israeli occupation of Arab land, the need for an Arab-Arab settlement and national efforts in rural and Bedouin social development as well as bridging the gap between men and women in the Arab World," Mufti said.

"The document gives special attention to the tragic life of the Palestinian children and calls for an end to their suffering and for their legitimate rights to live in peace and security," Mufti added.

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All eyes, this tree frog lives at an elevation of 2,300 feet in a newly protected tropical forest in Costa Rica. (life photo)

## Amphibians will jump, hop and slither right out of this world

By Richard Cole  
Associated Press

extinct.

MIAMI — Frogs, toads and salamanders are vanishing around the world in a trend biologists say appears linked to the planet's deteriorating environment.

From the United States to India, Japan and Australia, scientists report whole amphibian populations have disappeared or are declining, even in protected reserves.

"There is no consistent pattern," says University of Miami biologist Marc Hayes. "There doesn't seem to be any obvious global excuse."

Hayes, who heads a new U.S. committee on declining amphibians, says humans should worry not only because of the loss of animal species, but because amphibians' highly sensitive biology make them the 'canary in the coal mine' — an environmental early warning system.

Amphibians, including frogs, toads and salamanders, were the first land vertebrates. They appeared 400 million years ago, long before dinosaurs, and about 200 million years ago evolved into species similar to present-day varieties.

That longevity appears imperiled. Studies presented at an international conference in February documented a sharp drop worldwide in amphibian populations.

Leopard frogs are no longer sighted in Canada. The common European toad has disappeared from regions in Norway. Three species of miniature frogs vanished from Puerto Rico. Salamander populations are shrinking in the western United States, and Japan reports several frog species are in decline.

A recently discovered Australian frog that fascinated biologists because it hatched its young in its stomach apparently became extinct in only one season. The Monte Verde nature Reserve in Costa Rica reports all of its amphibian populations have declined, and the golden toad that once carpeted its forest may be

gone. Some causes of the phenomenon are known, and vary from country to country. But cases such as the loss of frogs in Australia or U.S. preserves leave biologists puzzled.

"In some of the areas that are the most protected, frogs are disappearing, and we have no explanation for it," Hayes says.

There are a whole host of species that have disappeared from very wide ranges to the United States."

David Wake, a zoologist at the University of California at Berkeley who chaired the February conference, says acid rain could be one of the culprits killing off salamanders in the rocky mountains of the western United States.

Hayes says ultraviolet light is a known threat to frog's eggs, and increased amounts of the harmful radiation entering through the thinning ozone layer could be destructive. Another hazard for frogs is stocking ponds with bass and other predator fish, especially in areas where the animals evolved with no such enemies, and have no ability to escape them.

In South Florida's Everglades, Hayes notes, pig frogs were hunted for food almost to extinction in the 1930s, and have never fully recovered. That pattern is being repeated in India and Indonesia.

Changing weather patterns caused by global warming could be to blame for the disappearance of amphibians in Costa Rica's Monte Verde Nature Preserve, said Hayes. Or roads and other development might be preventing them from moving between the many interconnected habitats they need to live, he said.

Amphibians, which absorb large amounts of water through their skins, are highly susceptible to heavy metals and other toxic material often exhausted into the air and water, Wake said.

Add widespread pesticide use, logging, dams, habitat destruction and other local factors, and the amphibian population is in

trouble.

"They are bio-indicators," Wake warns. "It may not be something that will hurt us directly, but they are telling us about the loss of resilience of our ecosystem, the loss of diversity."

The loss of amphibians also has some immediate noticeable effects on man, the scientists say.

The poison dart frog has a toxin in its skin that, when refined, has been used successfully on an experimental basis for treating heart conditions, said Hayes. Frogs also are a source of food in many parts of the world.

Amphibians also are a key part of nature's ecological balance.

"Frog tadpoles consume an enormous amount of algae," said Wake. "They keep our streams flowing clear and clean."

As adults, frogs move onto land, and become the top local predators, consuming enormous amounts of small insects, including mosquitoes.

The demise of pig frogs in the everglades, and expanse of grasslands that are flooded for much of the year, could have a bearing on the unexplained drop in wading birds, which have decreased by up to 90 per cent since the beginning of the century, says Hayes.

The variety of explanations and theories makes it clear there is no panacea to solve the problem, said Wake.

And he adds that no U.S. government agency is working on the problem in any case. He has been in contact with several U.S. senators on a project to create a national institute for the environment to protect the nation's biological wealth, but says so far, the amphibian problem in the United States is in the hands of over-worked, under-funded state game commissions.

Until there is more attention, biologists can only watch the disappearance of amphibian species with alarm.

"When the canary died, the miner left," says Wake. "Now the canary is dying, but we've got to sit here — where are we going to go?"

## U.S. suicide debate: Death machine or high-tech beheading

By Bernd Debusmann  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — A "doctor-assisted" suicide in Michigan this month has rekindled a longstanding controversy over Americans' right to die their own way — including a mathematician who wants his head cut off and frozen.

In an act which enraged many in the U.S. medical establishment, Dr. Jack Kevorkian connected a 54-year-old woman who had told she was suffering from Alzheimer's disease to a "suicide machine" designed to kill by lethal injection.

"I think it was the right thing to do," Kevorkian said in a telephone interview from his home in Royal Oak, Michigan. "She wanted to end her life before the disease took her mind."

Echoing mainstream opinion,

Robert Caplan, an expert on medical ethics, said in a television interview: "it is a moral outrage."

To avoid legal problems in

Michigan, Kevorkian did not administer the poison that caused Atkins to die.

He connected an intravenous tube to her arm which dripped a harmless saline solution.

She herself pushed a button

that stopped the saline and replaced it with Thiopental, which induces unconsciousness. The machine then switched automatically to a poison that stops the heart.

The ethical and legal aspects of

helping her to end her life.

The fear of dying helpless and without dignity has prompted thousands of Americans to join groups that fight for the individual's right to die their own way on painless methods.

"We have people calling us all the time. We have 50,000 members and the number is growing," said Diana Smith of the Hemlock Society, named after the poison the Greek philosopher Socrates took to kill himself more than 2,000 years ago.

"People should be allowed to have physician-assisted suicide," Smith said, referring to Atkins' death. "That is our philosophy."

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The ethical and legal aspects of

assisted suicide — banned in every state but Michigan — have taxed courts across the country but perhaps the most intriguing problems raised to date are in California.

There, Thomas Donaldson, a 46-year-old mathematician with an incurable brain tumour, is fighting for the right to be decapitated. He wants to have his head put in frozen storage until such time as medicine is capable of bringing it back to life and health and attaching it to a new body.

Donaldson wants to use a procedure known as cryonic suspension, in which his body temperature would be lowered gradually and his blood replaced with chemicals to prevent the tissue damage that results from freezing.

Then his head would be severed and stored in a container of liquid nitrogen at a hundreds of degrees below zero.

Donaldson has filed a lawsuit to secure the right to have the operation performed before the tumour destroys his brain — and before he is declared legally dead.

Advocates of this method say waiting for legal brain death reduces the chances of future success in reawakening.

There are obvious parallels between the Donaldson case and Atkins' wish to die before being

assisted

suicide.

Donaldson insists that his mind is far from suicide.

"We have here a fundamental disagreement about what constitutes death," he told Reuters in a telephone interview from his home in Sunnyvale, California.

"What is suicide to other people

is not suicide to me or other cryonics.

Nor for the people

who would be suspending me."

These people run the Alcor

Foundation, one of three compa-

nies in the United States that

specialise in cryonic suspen-

sion.

So far, only people who have died

have been placed in liquid oxi-

gen containers for future resus-

citation.

"They can be preserved inde-

pendently," Alcor President Carlos

Mondragon told Reuters.

"And what will be needed to repair

people and get them out of

it was removed before or after

she died. The conclusion: after

Mondragon calls Donaldson's

desire for decapitation while still

alive a "rational gamble"

and says that, while there are no

guarantees, cryonic suspension

gives a patient a chance at life.

Donaldson agrees: "I'm not

interested in being frozen in itself

is a desirable state. I just think it

is better than all the other

alternatives."

The 14 "patients" being pre-

served at Alcor range in age from

23 to 83.

The elderly patient's head was

suspended three years ago and at

the time authorities launched an

investigation to find out whether

it was removed before or after

she died. The conclusion: after

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# Economy

## Earthquake deals blow to Iran's agriculture

DUBAI (R) — The earthquake which has killed tens of thousands of Iranians has also ravaged a major farming area and could present Tehran with a huge bill for food imports.

Iran is already spending about \$3 billion a year on food imports, more than 20 per cent of its hard currency earnings, according to a Western expert in Tehran.

Economists were unwilling to guess at the damage to Iranian agriculture in the confusion following Thursday's earthquake but said they feared it would be serious.

The two worst-hit provinces of Gilan, on the Caspian Sea coast, and Zanjan to the south, are important fruit, rice, and wheat-growing areas.

Helicopter pilots over Gilan reported total devastation. With thousands of labourers among the casualties, irrigation systems damaged and pro-

duce spoiled in some districts, the onus for the Iranian economy looked bad.

Damage toaddy fields would be especially serious, economists said, because much of last year's rice crop was destroyed by another natural disaster, floods.

Economists said Tehran would probably have to import emergency supplies of food.

To feed Iran's 50 million people, it has already had to resort to emergency imports to top up stockpiles which have barely kept ahead of demand.

According to Western eco-

nomists, Iran even had to buy a small amount of wheat from Saudi Arabia to head off a food crisis late last year.

The government has tried to reduce subsidies on many foodstuffs but Iranian economists say it dare not stop subsidising staples such as bread and cooking oil.

That would force millions of poorer people to pay freemarket prices, which are many times higher, and risk popular unrest.

Economists said estimates of food subsidies had doubled to around \$4.7 billion this year.

Iran's farm sector has long been in bad shape, the victim of inefficiency, soil erosion, outdated land laws which have caused a flight to the cities by peasants, misguided government subsidies and a distorted foreign currency exchange rate.

Agricultural economists estimate Iran's yield of wheat per hectare at some 1,700 kilograms in irrigated areas and 640 kilogramme in dry areas.

This is about half the world average for countries with similar climates and Thursday's earthquake can only have cut this year's crops, they said.

London last year.

Reasons for shift

KUWAIT — Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, Kuwait's dynamic and ambitious oil minister for 12 years, appears certain to keep some leverage over the Gulf state's oil policies despite his switch to the finance ministry.

Diplomatic and oil industry sources said Thursday the appointment to the prestigious oil job of U.S-educated Rashid Salim Al Ameri, an academic hardly known outside Kuwait, was proof Sheikh Ali's star

reached high.

He said the change "might also reflect, at least in part, some feeling of vulnerability to pressure from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran for Kuwait to cut some of its production."

Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have been widely accused of flooding an already-glutted oil market, threatening a price plunge to 1986 levels of below \$10 a barrel. The benchmark Dubai crude was around \$13 Thurs-

day. After strong criticism from neighbours Saudi Arabia and Iraq, Kuwait last week moved to cut excess output 45 days after OPEC agreed to limit production by six per cent to reverse a 30-per cent fall in oil prices.

Europe-based traders said Thursday that although Sheikh Ali's move might mean Kuwait would one day be less of an OPEC maverick, this would not have much of a short-term effect.

They said oil stocks were brimming and prices were still shaky and Kuwait could not do very much to change the picture.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdal Rahim Al Chalabi Tuesday accused Arab states of deliberately pushing oil prices lower to increase their oil market share.

Chalabi and Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer were reported to have urged their heads of state at an Arab summit in Baghdad last month to take up Sheikh Ali's policies with the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

Sheikh Ali was a close friend of Saudi Arabia's former Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani, who advocated low oil prices to encourage higher demand for OPEC oil, and was allegedly sacked in 1986 when he was unable to halt the world oil price collapse.

The former Kuwaiti oil minister remains associated with Yamani and Sheikh Ali sits on the board of an energy think-tank set up by Yamani in

Long term implications

Mehdi Varzi, an analyst who follows OPEC for London-based Kleinwort Benson Securities, noted that although Kuwait was saying there would be no oil policy change, he thought that "removing the symbol in OPEC of the low price-high production strategy may have some long term im-

portance."

In Abu Dhabi, Boussena said the 30 per cent drop in oil prices this year to around \$14 a barrel would lose OPEC members \$7 billion in revenues.

Boussena is also due to meet the oil ministers of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar in a mission intended to lay the groundwork for a more stable agreement on output at a scheduled OPEC meeting July 25, also in Geneva.

The latest Reuter survey of the oil industry showed total OPEC output in May at 23.22 million bpd. World demand is currently around 22.0 million bpd.

UAE output was estimated at two million bpd, compared to its quota of 1.095 million.

The UAE and Kuwait have both previously said that their

assigned quotas did not fairly reflect their output capacity.

Kuwait is estimated to have produced 1.85 million bpd in May against its quota of 1.5 million.

Chalabi said that while the UAE might not be happy with its quota, that did not mean it had to demand double the amount.

Boussena said OPEC was passing through a serious and extremely difficult situation since the May meeting.

Earlier this month, top OPEC oil producer Saudi Arabia threw its weight behind countries.

into East Germany's fragile economy.

As the 1948 introduction of the Deutsche mark paved the way for the political division between the Soviet and Western zones of Germany, the reintroduction of a single German currency is the first step to political reunification.

The arrival of the West German mark filled the empty shelves of post-war German shops overnight. Now economists are sure high quality goods will quickly replace the shoddy products East Germans have put up with for more than 40 years.

### New export market

On the plus side for West German industry, companies here have a new export market just when economies in the rest of the industrial world are showing signs of cooling down.

Volkswagen, for instance, is already producing its Polo cars in East Germany to replace the spluttering Trabants and Wartburgs which previously polluted East German roads.

But no one is playing down the risks of the transition in

stretch the West German budget.

Markets have already pushed up domestic interest rates sharply since the start of the year, in anticipation of a credit squeeze by the central bank.

Average yields on the sort of government bond that Bonn will have to issue to finance union have soared to around nine per cent from about seven-and-a-half per cent at the start of 1990.

But the Bundesbank seems relaxed. Board member Guenther Storch, responsible for transferring 25 billion West German marks (\$15 billion) to stock up East German banks by July 1, says there are no signs of the consumer hysteria widely anticipated a few weeks ago.

He told Reuters Thursday that only a third of East Germans swapping their bank accounts into West German marks had applied to withdraw West German currency at the start of union.

Poehl says inflationary risks

from fusion are limited and

economists point out that cur-

rent annual price rises of only

2.3 per cent are among the

lowest in the industrial West.

West and East German credits will be available to hand those companies a life-line while they adapt their products to the demands of sophisticated Western consumers.

But Bonn Economics Minis-

ter Helmut Haussmann still

believes nearly two million out

of East Germany's total popula-

tion of 16 million people could lose their jobs after July 1.

World financial markets

also worried that union

will boost inflation in price-

conscious West Germany and

that Bonn's plans to bankrupt

East German economic reform with huge cash transfers will

put up with for more than 40 years.

Japan's mammoth overall trade surplus will continue to fall, despite the yen's relative weakness against other currencies.

The report was released as Japan and the United States were preparing to meet June 25 for a final round of trade talks on economic reforms aimed at changing business practices and policies that inhibit trade and investment.

The report said difficulties in slashing Japan's \$49 billion trade surplus with the United States

could be "explained naturally."

A gradual recovery in U.S. export competitiveness boosted U.S. exports to Japan 65.9 per cent between 1986 and 1989, while U.S. exports to the European Community (EC) rose 62.9 per cent, it said.

But while the United States posted a \$1.5 billion trade surplus with the EC last year — a significant improvement over its \$20.6 billion deficit in 1987 — it ran a \$49 billion deficit with Japan.

That was a slight improvement from a record \$56.3 billion in 1987, but still huge compared to 1980's \$9.9 billion, according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

The report attributed the slower recovery in the U.S. trade balance with Japan to the composition of goods traded. Relatively higher value manufactured goods account for 80.6 per

cent of U.S. exports to Europe, but only 58 per cent of U.S. exports to Japan, it said.

It said 78.1 per cent of Japan's exports to the United States were machinery and transport goods.

European exports included more primary products, limiting the expansion of U.S. imports from the EC.

Japan's exports are increasing-

ly high-tech products that are

"essential to the production and

other economic activities of com-

panies in the countries that are

importing them," the report said.

It said there were signs of a "stable trend" toward continued growth in imports and reduced reliance on exports, despite the yen's relative weakness against other major currencies.

Although May's figures

showed Britain's trade balance

was still well in the red, they

showed a steady improvement in

the country's trade performance,

helped last month by record ex-

port sales of \$3.92 billion (\$15.4 billion).

The ministry said the yen's average value against the dollar fell to 138 yen in 1989.

Kuwait's oil minister moved to finance ministry

## Sheikh Ali to retain his leverage over oil policy

By Hamza Hendawi  
Reuter

KUWAIT — Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, Kuwait's dynamic and ambitious oil minister for 12 years, appears certain to keep some leverage over the Gulf state's oil policies despite his switch to the finance ministry.

Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have been widely accused of flooding an already-glutted oil market, threatening a price plunge to 1986 levels of below \$10 a barrel. The benchmark Dubai crude was around \$13 Thurs-

day.

London last year.

Reasons for shift

Kuwait sources differed on the reasons behind Sheikh Ali's shift to the Finance Ministry.

One Kuwait-based oil trader said it might have been aimed at making the point that key government posts were not the monopoly of the ruling Al Sabah family.

But Sheikh Ali does not belong to the main branch of the family and others believed the 44-year-old former oil minister would continue to exercise influence behind-the-scenes.

"It is certainly not a demonstration," said one Western diplomat, noting Sheikh Ali's new brief gave him direct control over Kuwait's vast investments abroad, including key downstream oil activities in Europe and elsewhere.

"I think all Khalifa will still have a major say in oil matters," said William Brown, an oil analyst and vice president with Kidder Peabody and Company of New York.

The switch of Sheikh Ali to the finance job was announced Wednesday night as part of a cabinet reshuffle which saw the replacement of 11 cabinet ministers. The change followed the election on June 10 of a new, four-year national assembly.

The key foreign and defence jobs were unchanged and in the hands of ruling family members. There are eight sheikhs in the 22-man cabinet, due to be sworn in Saturday.

"Everybody will listen when he speaks at the (oil) council," said another diplomatic source, adding that the emir called the shots on major oil policy decisions.

Ameri, an assistant engineering professor in Kuwait University seconded to a research institute, will chair Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), a job which goes with the oil ministry brief.

The KPC is the state umbrella oil firm which controls marketing and distribution networks in and outside Kuwait.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 23, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Now you suddenly have all kinds of interest in being up to date in both your thinking and your activities and you will have a special opportunity to take positive action right away.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have an excitement in the atmosphere about you that makes it possible for you to have more than an average good time at chosen pleasures.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A discussion with members of your family can produce some worthwhile ways in make conditions at your residence much more satisfactory.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look into how you can make associates realize you are a person of some unusual attainments and put across a workable plan for the future.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take a new look at whatever your property and possessions and think out what you can do to make them more valuable to your best interests.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A business proposition could be presented to you today that has many worthwhile features connected with it so don't turn it down without study.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be openminded to advice from a prominent person how you can best fit your special abilities in with modern worldly and business methods.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well what your secret wishes are and go after them in a secretive but unusual manner and you have a very good chance to gain it at this time.

WIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever advanced formulas

## THE Daily Crossword

by Stanley B. Whitton



## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

## Sports

### West Germany faces World Cup showdown with Dutch

MILAN (R) — West Germany will have their World Cup aspirations tested to the full in the second round Sunday when they face European champions in the Netherlands, the nation they beat to lift the world title 16 years ago.

"Holland is the toughest draw of all," said assistant coach Bert Vogts, a member of the side which triumphed over the Dutch in the 1974 final.

The West Germans were installed by the bookmakers as title-favourites after their first two round-robin performances in the first round and should beat the Dutch on form.

The Netherlands have been far short of the brilliant best which carried them to the European championship title in 1988, disappointing of host West Germany 2-1 in the semi-finals.

But their superb pedigree ensures they remain the most dangerous of opponents, even though they failed to win any of their Group F matches, drawing 1-1 with outsiders Egypt, 0-0 with

England and 1-1 with Ireland.

West Germany, at their most incisive for years, eclipsed Yugoslavia 4-1 and the United Arab Emirates 5-1 in Group D before dropping their concentration in a 1-1 draw against Colombia.

No other team came close to matching their 10-goal aggregate, largely supplied by their captain Lothar Matthaeus (three) and strikers Rudi Voeller (three) and Juergen Klinsmann (two).

Much will hinge on the battle between the three West Germans of Inter Milan and the three Dutchmen of A.C. Milan, who will turn the clash in the San Siro stadium into something of a local derby.

Inter trio Matthaeus, Klinsmann and defender Andreas Brethme played key parts in the Group D successes, with Brethme's raids on the left flank badly missed against the Colombians when the player was suspended for one match after two bookings.

Ruud Gullit Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, the Dutch-

men who helped A.C. Milan win the European Cup twice in a row, will also revel in the passionate atmosphere of the soccer temple of San Siro with its crowds of over 70,000.

Gullit, yet to recapture his full powers after missing the best part of a year through injury, continued his revival with a fine goal against Ireland in Palermo Thursday.

"It was very disappointed with the first two matches but now I feel really liberated," he said. "We played much better and now we can only play better still."

They will indeed need to raise their game, with Van Basten rediscovering his sharp-shooting form in a Dutch attack which has so far mustered only two goals — one from Wim Kieft and the other from Gullit.

The odds seem stacked in favour of the West Germans, who have had two extra days to recuperate after last Tuesday's Group D closer, compared with the Dutch who were in action Thursday night.

### Baggio gets high marks

ROME (R) — Italian Roberto Baggio's glorious individual goal against Czechoslovakia was the best of the World Cup, according to former Brazilian international Pele.

Pele, widely considered the best player of all time, said: "Baggio's goal was the most beautiful of the World Cup."

His opinion, shared by millions of soccer watchers, was echoed by Brazilian manager Sebastiao Lazaroni who said: "What a goal Baggio's was the finest goal seen in the World Cup so far."

Baggio, the world's costliest player, was widely expected to spend most of the World Cup on the substitutes' bench.

But he sealed his place in the side with the second goal in Italy's 2-0 victory Wednesday when he beat three defenders before shooting calmly into the net.

The World Cup has made fabulously rich Fiat boss Gianni Agnelli a little happier already about the \$13 million he shelled out for striker Baggio.

Agnelli, Italy's top industrialist, owns Turin club Juventus, who paid the world's highest transfer fee to buy Baggio from Fiorentina shortly before the World Cup.

Normally a man of few public words, Agnelli told the newspaper La Repubblica: "Baggio cost us a lot, as you know well. Now we must see how much he is worth as well as knowing how much he cost. The match with Czechoslovakia is a first, positive response to this question."

Until Italy's 2-0 victory over Czechoslovakia Wednesday night Baggio looked like being a very expensive luxury for the national team. He seemed destined to stay on the bench for most of the World Cup.

But a brilliant individual goal, Italy's second, seems to have sealed his place in the side.

Agnelli has more than one cause for celebration. His other recent acquisition, Salvatore Schillaci, is also a national hero after scoring both against Czechoslovakia and Austria.

But as they faltered, supporting cast members stepped forward to grab a share of glory.

When the Italian strike force of Gianluca Vialli and Andrea Carena failed to produce goals in, came Salvatore Schillaci to score twice. While high-scoring Spanish striker Emilio Butragueno has been quiet, playmaker Michel has noticed four goals.

The tournament has featured a number of comebacks, including that of Belgian Enzo Scifo. A starter at the 1986 World Cup, he was dropped from the team for lackluster play and returned just in time to anchor Belgium at this year's world championship.

But the most remarkable comeback player has been Mills, who lost interest in top-level soccer after the death of his mother and was playing for a small team on the Indian Ocean island of La Reunion.

Unexpectedly called back to

### Michel stars, Uruguay sets hearts fluttering in Group E

UDINE (R) — Group E produced the World Cup's leading first round goalscorer in Spanish midfielder Michel and it was the two solid European teams — Spain and Belgium — who prevailed over South American and Asian opposition.

That outcome was predictable but the South Americans, Uruguay, proved to be the jokers in the pack with a topsy-turvy series of matches.

They threatened at the outset to cause problems, outplaying Spain in their opening match. But in the end Uruguay avoided elimination only through an injury time goal against South Korea.

"We carry the weight of a rich past on our shoulders," explained Uruguayan manager Oscar Tabarez, whose country won the first World Cup in 1930 and again in 1950.

"When you talk of Uruguay, you remember the two World Cups we won and consider us

among the favourites. In reality, we have problems to solve and we're trying to build up a new identity," he said.

Uruguay's immediate reward is a second round clash against hosts Italy, three times winners themselves, in the pressure-cooker atmosphere of the Olympic stadium.

The Koreans bad been ex-

pected to provide the stiffest opposition Asia could muster and help create what was to be the most closely contested opening round group.

But, physically and technically

not able to match the Europeans and South Americans, the Koreans lost all their matches fairly tamely.

"We tried to do everything we

could but we did experience,"

said manager Lee Hoe-Talk. "It

would help greatly if some of our

players could get experiences of

playing in some of the more

developed countries."

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1990 7

Abu Samra wins Hayyat National Rally

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Hayyat National Rally came to an end with Marouf Abu Samra, driving a Daihatsu Charade, winning first place closely followed by Isma Halabi with a Nissan 240 R.S.

There was neck to neck competition between Halabi and Marouf in the special stages numbered 11, 12 and 13 with Marouf taking the lead in the 13th stage with a difference of four seconds.

"Competition against Halabi was very tough but towards the end I really pushed my car to its limit," Marouf said.

The route, which was described as short yet difficult took the drivers from the Royal Automobile Club towards south of Amman as far as Qatrana and west on the Kings Highway heading north towards the finish at the Royal Automobile Club. Spectators were spread out along the 490-kilometre route cheering the drivers by as they munched on "goodies".

The first leg of the rally ended in Alia Gateway Hotel with a total of 19 cars out of 24 starters. However, the second leg began again from the Alia Gateway Hotel with 16 starters.

The last stage competition was high between the first seven cars when Gaith Bilbeisi, driving a Toyota Celica G.T. took over position three, which was held by Hassan Tabaa, driving a Nissan 240 R.S. thus pushing the remaining drivers one notch down.

The provisional overall results are as follows: Marouf Abu Samra in first position with a total of 52 minutes and 0.5 seconds.

Following closely was Isma Halabi with a total of 52:4 Geith Bilbeisi third total 57:12.

In group C, the winner was Mazen Dajani with a total of 1:42:3 who also finished fifth overall.

### Brazil meets Argentina in early clash of giants

TURIN, Italy (R) — Diego Maradona's Argentina, the World Cup holders, must overcome a double jinx Sunday when they meet Brazil in an early clash of Latin America's soccer giants.

Argentina have yet to win a World Cup match against their great rivals and Maradona, their guiding light for almost a decade, has never played in a winning side against the Brazilians at national or club level.

"The match is between two teams that could win the cup," Argentine manager Carlos Bilardo said shortly before his squad prepared to head north to Turin for their first knockout game.

The premature meeting of two such powerful sides, who have met three times before in the cup, was due to Argentina's poor early

form which left them third in their group.

Brazil by contrast won all their matches to remain in this northern city, though their displays left much to be desired by their normally exacting standards.

"We are going to have to cut down on our mistakes in front of goal," said manager Sebastian Lazaroni whose side scored only four goals in their three opening round matches.

But Lazaroni, at 39 the youngest coach in the tournament, is resisting calls to abandon his cautious 3-5-2 system and reinforce the attack.

"I would use a three-man attack only in conditions of dire emergency," he said flatly.

Such statements bewilder most Brazilians who are reared in the

belief that their team must not only win but must also reflect the artistic qualities held dear by the nation — grace, flamboyance and daring.

But they would no doubt be placated by the return of the cup to Rio for the first time since 1970 when Pele and his outrageously gifted team set standards that have yet to be matched.

Maradona has justifiably taken over the "world's greatest player" mantle though at nearly 30 he is probably past his peak.

And his ability to inspire his less talented teammates to the heights needed to beat the likes of Brazil must now be in question.

"All the Argentine team deserves special respect, not just Maradona," said Lazaroni.

However, Dunga is likely to be given the job of ensuring that when the stocky Argentine captain — never averse to playing for free-kicks — starts failing he does so well outside the penalty area.

Argentina have also been plagued by injury problems with understudy keeper Sergio Goycochea, brought in for Nery Pumpido who broke a leg, looking uneasy, particularly with crosses.

Both Maradona and Jorge Burruchaga, probably the side's second most important player, are suffering nagging injuries though they are sure to play.

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#### PLAZA

## ANC not wedded to socialism —Mandela

NEW YORK (R) — Nelson Mandela, triggering a wave of adulation through New York that some are calling "Mandela mania," attempted in a series of interviews Thursday to allay fears that if his movement triumphed it would move to nationalise South Africa's wealth.

But he also sparked some controversy as he repeatedly and in powerful language refused to disown three world leaders often at odds with the United States — the PLO's Yasser Arafat, Cuba's Fidel Castro and Libya's Muammar Qadhafi, saying they had aided his cause.

Meanwhile, Harlem, the black capital of America, gave him its beat Thursday night and Yankee Stadium — where baseball is often a lost cause — suddenly had a winner.

Mandela gave rousing speeches to more than 50,000 New Yorkers crammed into the famed stadium and at least 100,000 more who crowded the main street of Harlem to cheer lustily and weep

openly on the spot where black heroes have traditionally voiced their dreams.

The South African black leader left Yankee Stadium to the cheers of thousands wearing a Yankee jacket and cap, saying, "I know who I am. I am a Yankee." The stadium houses the team with the worst record in baseball.

In a free-wheeling television interview, attended by a wildly enthusiastic audience of 1,000, Mandela was asked if he would impose a Marxist or Socialist government and said, I don't care if the cat is black or white — as long as it catches mice."

In an interview with the New York Times, he said South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) was not wedded to Socialism and supported state participation in the economy only to the extent it was needed to redress gross disparities in wealth between whites and blacks.

Mandela is expected to further discuss his vision of a South African future in a speech to the

United Nations Friday and in a news conference there.

Not even the Empire State Building was immune to the "Mandela mania" sweeping New York. It was lit up Thursday night in the gold, green and black colours of the African National Congress of which Mandela is deputy president.

Harlem called itself the Soweto of America for the night as people grabbed every available inch of space on 125th Street at Seventh Avenue to hear him declare that apartheid was doomed.

Mandela, 71, showed charm and conviction in his television interview. He refused to disown Arafat, Qadhafi and Castro.

"One of the mistakes political analysts make is to think their enemies should be our enemies. Our attitude toward any country is their attitude toward our struggle."

"Qadhafi, Castro and Arafat support our struggle to the hilt... we identify with the PLO because they are fighting for the right of

self-determination just like we are."

Amid hisses, American Jewish Congress leader Henry Siegman, who had met in Geneva with Mandela to discuss his support of Arafat, accused the black leader of "amoralism" in his support of the three. Mandela retorted, "we have no time to look into the internal affairs of other countries."

The close questioning of Mandela's friendship for Arafat reflected the tenseness of black-Jewish relations in the United States because of concern over internal unrest and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, NATO sources said Friday.

Security has been sharply increased at all Soviet bases with nuclear weapons, they added, citing U.S. and West German intelligence reports.

"They are worried that these weapons might fall into the wrong hands and they want to be very sure that it doesn't happen," said one source, who asked not to be identified.

Moscow had moved the weapons, thought to be short-range missiles and some nuclear artillery shells, back to the Russian Republic — close to central control.

"We're not sure exactly how many we've moved, but it's not a huge amount," said another source. "It doesn't seem to involve strategic nuclear weapons, which tend to be based elsewhere."

The Baltic republics have been the scene of nationalist unrest and independence bids by Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia while fighting between ethnic groups in Transcaucasia flared earlier this year.

The presence of Soviet troops and nuclear weapons on the soil of the once-reliable Warsaw Pact allies in Eastern Europe has become deeply unpopular since last year's revolutions.

"It seems to us that these precautions are very sensible," said one NATO diplomat.

"There's a lot of worry here about the possibility of the Soviet Union simply collapsing. In that chaos, there would be nuclear weapons around, and that's a pretty frightening thought."

"It's very important that they do this," said Hans Binnendijk of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). "The last thing they want is a rogue independent state with nuclear weapons."

## Cambodia calls for early ceasefire

aces in recent years have included a greater proportion of spare parts and ammunition — less costly than aircraft, tanks or ships.

Secondly, many Third World countries are burdened by heavy debt and unwilling or unable to buy as many weapons as they did. Even oil-rich nations have cut back on some arms buys as world oil prices have dropped.

Also, the end of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war in 1988 has reduced orders from the two combatants which accounted in large measure for the massive increase in arms sales in the early and mid-1980s, the study found.

The United States accounted for 26 per cent of the arms agreements with the Third World, but its total sales agreements fell from \$9.3 billion in 1988 to \$7.7 billion last year.

The U.S. figures only include government-to-government agreements, excluding commercial sales for which the data are incomplete, the report said. But this exclusion does not affect the U.S. ranking among others arms suppliers, it added.

The value of commercial arms deliveries in fiscal year 1989 fell

to \$1.61 billion from \$3.3 billion the previous year, according to State Department figures.

The value of Soviet arms agreements, which accounted for 38.4 per cent of the weapons transfers to the Third World, fell from \$14.7 billion in 1988 to \$11.2 billion in 1989.

In addition to a drop in demand, the decline in Soviet sales could also reflect a Kremlin decision to cut back its support for Third World clients who cannot pay in hard cash.

Still, in 1989 the Soviets were the major supplier to eight of the top 10 Third World arms recipients, the study said. They were: Afghanistan, Angola, Vietnam, Syria, Iraq, Libya, Cuba and India.

Iran's major supplier was China; Saudi Arabia's was the United Kingdom.

Arms agreements with Afghanistan more than tripled from 1982 to 1989, to \$8.6 billion. Angola and Vietnam increased their arms purchase agreements 37 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively, in the same period.

Syria declined 56.4 per cent, Iraq 43.4 per cent, and Libya 30.3 per cent, the report said.

A transcript of the speech was seen in Bangkok Friday.

Ham Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the alliance's nominal head, agreed in Tokyo on June 5 that the rival armies should halt fighting when a supreme national council involving all the factions was set up by the end of July,

"We want to implement the ceasefire and the suspension of military aid as soon as possible, but the other Cambodian factions, particularly the Khmer Rouge, want to prolong the war," he said.

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"There's a lot of worry here about the possibility of the Soviet Union simply collapsing. In that chaos, there would be nuclear weapons around, and that's a pretty frightening thought."

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The sources said the rebels had used knives instead of guns fearing shots would alert the security forces close by.

The attacks had accused residents of the coastal village of giving information to advancing troops earlier in the week about the location of Tiger hideouts.

"The alleged massacre took place less than 24 hours after Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said security forces had

liberated the whole of eastern province from the Tigers after 11 days of fierce fighting.

The Tigers had retreated to the jungles as columns of troops advanced on the main towns in the Amparai, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts.

The residents in the area said the Tigers, fighting for an independent state for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, had regrouped in the outskirts of the towns.

The Tigers launched attacks on June 11 on police stations and army camps in the northeast.

The overran 30 police stations, abducted 800 policemen and seized arms and ammunition.

The security forces launched a counter-offensive and recaptured the eastern province from the Tigers. They were moving to clear the rebels from the northern sector, Wijeratne told reporters Thursday.

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